

Application No. 10/084,802  
Reply to Office Communication of November 21, 2005

RD27809-7

**Listing of the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-28 (Cancelled)

Claim 29. (Previously presented) An extruder transition section, comprising an enclosed discharge chamber defined by a first sectioning wall, a second sectioning wall and a contoured lower wall that transitions toward a discharge port and a shaft that extends through said first sectioning wall, traverses said chamber and extends through said second sectioning wall.

Claim 30. (Previously presented) The extruder transition section of claim 29, wherein said section connects a first compounding apparatus to a second compounding apparatus.

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The extruder transition section of claim 30, wherein said shaft is common to said first compounding apparatus and to said second compounding apparatus.

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The extruder transition section of claim 31, further comprising disconnectable couplings that permit said first compounding apparatus to be disconnected from said second compounding apparatus.

Claim 33. (Previously presented) An extruder transition section, said extruder transition section connecting an upstream compounding apparatus and a downstream

Application No. 10/084,802

RD27809-7

Reply to Office Communication of November 21, 2005

compounding apparatus, said extruder transition section comprising an enclosed discharge chamber defined by a first sectioning wall, a second sectioning wall and a contoured lower wall that transitions toward a discharge port and a shaft that extends through said first sectioning wall, traverses said chamber and extends through said second sectioning wall.

Claim 34. (Previously presented) An extruder transition apparatus according to claim 33 wherein said shaft is common to said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) An extruder transition apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising disconnectable couplings that permit said upstream compounding apparatus to be disconnected from said downstream compounding apparatus.

Claim 36. (Previously presented) An extruder transition section according to claim 33 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have co-rotating, intermeshing double screw configurations.

Claim 37. (Previously presented) An extruder transition section according to claim 36 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have length to diameter ratios of 30 or less.

Claim 38. (Previously presented) An extruder transition section according to claim 33 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have counter-rotating, non-intermeshing double screw configurations.

Application No. 10/084,802

RD27809-7

Reply to Office Communication of November 21, 2005

Claim 39. (Previously presented) An extruder transition section according to claim 38 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have length to diameter ratios of 30 or less.

Claim 40. (Previously presented) An extruder transition section according to claim 33 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have reciprocating single screw configurations.

Claim 41. (Previously presented) An extruder transition section according to claim 40 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have length to diameter ratios of 30 or less.

Claim 42. (Previously presented) An extruder transition section according to claim 33 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have non-reciprocating single screw configurations.

Claim 43. (Previously presented) An extruder transition section according to claim 42 wherein said upstream compounding apparatus and said downstream compounding apparatus have length to diameter ratios of 30 or less.